

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A biodegradable fibrous ~~support web~~ for soil mulching comprising a fibrous mass and biodegradable thermobonding fibres distributed in the fibrous mass.
2. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, wherein the thermobonding fibres consist exclusively of polylactic fibres.
3. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, wherein the thermobonding fibres are present in an amount between 5 to 50% by weight ~~by weight~~ of the web support.
4. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, further comprising a grid associated with at least a part of the support web, wherein the grid includes threads comprised of a biodegradable polymer selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, viscose, modified viscose, polyhydroxybutyrate, and polyhydroxyalcanoate, and mixtures thereof.
5. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the grid consists of modified viscose threads.
6. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the weight of the grid is between 10 and 50 g/m².
7. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the grid is positioned exclusively in an area ~~of fixing points~~ of the support on web for attachment to the ground.

8. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the grid is glued directly on a surface of the fibrous support web by means of a water-resistant biodegradable glue which is selected from the group consisting of ethylene polyvinyl alcohol (EVOH), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), and mixtures thereof, the glue being present in an amount between 5 and 50% by weight of the grid.

9. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the grid is positioned directly on the fibrous mass of the support web.

10. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises a hydrophobic resin in an amount from 0.5 to 15% by weight of the support, wherein the hydrophobic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyamide-amine-epichlorhydrin resins, polyethyleneimine resins, starch derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

11. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises carbon black in an amount from 0.5 to 4% by weight of the support.

12. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable natural latex obtained from rubber trees, the balance to 100 % consisting of water, and stabilizing and preserving agents for the latex.

13. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable prevulcanized natural latex obtained from ~~the~~ a rubber tree, the balance to 100 % consisting of water, and stabilizing and preserving agents for the latex.

14. (currently amended) A ~~fibrous web support~~ according to Claim 12, wherein the biodegradable natural latex is obtained from *Hevea Brasiliensis* and has a dry rubber concentration at least of 60%.

15. (currently amended) A ~~fibrous web support~~ according to Claim 12, wherein the stabilizing agents are selected from the group consisting of vegetable proteins, fillers and mixtures thereof.

16. (currently amended) A ~~fibrous web support~~ according to Claim 12, wherein the preservative agents are selected from the group consisting of animal proteins, tannins, the natural colouring agents, chitosan and mixtures thereof.

17. (currently amended) A ~~fibrous web support~~ according to Claim 12, wherein the coating solution contains by weight of:

- from 5 to 50 % biodegradable natural latex obtained from ~~the~~ rubber trees,
- from 1 to 20 % proteins,
- from 0 to 20 % of talc,
- from 1 to 20 % of chitosan, and/or indigo, and/or glycerin, and/or tannins,
- the balance to 100 % consisting of water.

18. (currently amended) A ~~fibrous web support~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the fibrous mass comprises, exclusive of the biodegradable thermobonding fibres, from 40 to 100% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres, and from 0 to 60% by weight of deciduous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

19. (currently amended) A ~~fibrous web support~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the fibrous mass comprises, exclusive of the biodegradable thermobonding fibres, from 80 to 100% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 20% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

20. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, wherein the fibrous mass comprises, exclusive of the biodegradable thermobonding fibres, from 20 to 100% by weight of coniferous bleached kraft fibres, from 0 to 40% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 40% by weight of rayon fibres.

21. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 3, wherein the thermobonding fibres are present in an amount between 10 and 15% by weight of the support web.

22. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 4, wherein the grid is associated with at least a part of at least one support face of the support web.

23. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 22, wherein the grid is associated with the whole of the at least one support face of the support web.

24. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 4, wherein the grid is incorporated into at least a part of the support web.

25. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 24, wherein the grid is incorporated into the whole of the support web.

26. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 6, wherein the weight of the grid is about 20 g/m².

27. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 15, wherein the stabilizing agent comprises casein, soya protein, talc or calcium carbonate.

28. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 16, wherein the preservative agent comprises glycerin or indigo.

29. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 8, wherein the glue is present in an amount of about 15% by weight of the grid.